



# Western Australian 10-Year Strategy on Homelessness

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is the 10-Year Strategy on Homelessness (the Strategy)?**

The Strategy will be a whole-of-community plan to tackle homelessness in Western Australia. It will find better ways to prevent homelessness and support those who are experiencing it.

This long-term Strategy recognises that addressing and preventing homelessness is a complex issue. For this reason, there will be a coordinated and collaborative approach to its development, involving Government and mainstream services such as health, mental health, education and justice.

### **Why do we need a Strategy?**

Homelessness is a complex issue with many contributing factors. People who are experiencing or are at risk of homelessness need access to a range of supports and services offered by both non-government and government agencies. It is crucial the sectors work together to assist these individuals.

Service providers and consumers have highlighted the need to improve the ways we identify those experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness to better enable us to provide a targeted and effective response.

### **How will the Strategy be developed?**

The Strategy is a significant partnership between the State Government and the community services sector. It is also a key project of the Supporting Communities Forum.

Work on the Strategy is guided by the Supporting Communities Forum Working Group on Homelessness, which is co-chaired by Department of Communities Director General Grahame Searle and Ruah Community Services CEO Debra Zanella.

Members of the Working Group have been drawn from across government and the community sector. They have a wealth of knowledge about what causes homelessness and ways to address and prevent it.

Taking this co-design approach shifts the focus of responsibility and control so that stakeholders can become active partners in designing and shaping a future, rather than being passive recipients of programs and services.



## How can I have my say?

Insights from people who have experienced, or been at risk of, homelessness as well as homelessness related service organisations are a key part of the development of the Strategy. This input will contribute to determining the best ways to respond to and prevent homelessness in the community.

Consultations with individuals and service providers in metropolitan and regional Western Australia will be held throughout September and October 2018.

More information about how you can have your say will be made available on the Department of Communities website.

## When will the Strategy be finished?

It is anticipated the draft Strategy will be finalised and available for comment by the end of the year.

## How will the Strategy be implemented?

As part of the Strategy, there will be a series of rolling action plans for the 10-Year period, outlining key initiatives and responses.

The action plans will be implemented through a flexible, phased approach to ensure future actions reflect what has been achieved, recognise new challenges and priorities and respond to emerging evidence and innovation.

## What is the difference between the Strategy and the plan released by the WA Alliance to End Homelessness?

In April 2018, the WA Alliance to End Homelessness (the Alliance) launched the Western Australian Strategy to End Homelessness, which is a 10-year action plan to end homelessness.

The Alliance's strategy is a community-led initiative informed by a community campaign and an extensive consultation process with the sector.

The 10-year Strategy intends to expand and build on the Alliance's work, and establish strong and ongoing linkages between the two strategies.

Supporting Communities Homelessness Working Group Co-Chair Debra Zanella is a key member of the Alliance. Other Alliance members, including the University of Western Australia and Shelter WA, are represented on the Working Group and will play a key role in the co-design process.

## Where can I go to find out further information?

- **Visit our website:** [www.communities.wa.gov.au/homelessness-strategy](http://www.communities.wa.gov.au/homelessness-strategy)
- **Email** the Department of Communities Homelessness Strategy Team: [homelessness.strategy@communities.wa.gov.au](mailto:homelessness.strategy@communities.wa.gov.au)